1988: USSR—5; France—4; Iran—2; Indonesia—1; USA—1; Singapore—1; Thailand—1. New Zealand—1; UK—1.

(c) No, Sir.

Surplus workers in Defence Factories

217. SHRI NARAYAN KAR:
DR. YALAMANCHILI SIVAJI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are surplus workers in defence factories in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the manner in which Government is going to absorb them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (c) No staff has been declared surplus in the Ordnance Factories. However, the norms for staff and workers are reviewed periodically and deployment of some staff and workers is effected to ensure their optimum utilisation.

Declaration of Quasi-Permanency of work charged staff of Lower Ganga Division

218. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the declaration of Quasi-permanent of work-charged staff of Lower Ganga Division under Central Water Commission is pending since long despite several requests from the employees association: and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Out of 107 work charged staff in the Lower Ganga Division, Berhampore, 53 have been declared permanent and 9 quasi-permanent. The decision to declare the remaining staff quasi-permanent will be taken after verifying their service particulars etc. as per rules.

Construction of quarters for Lower Ganga Division staff

219. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for construction of office building and staff quarters at Lower Ganga Division under Central Water Commission;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has been no progress in the matter because of financial constraints.

Extending the benefits of revised scale of pay to Senior Computor

220. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has proposed/recommended to the Ministry of Water Resources for extending the benefits of the Senior Scale of Rs. 425—700 (pre-revised) and Rs. 1400—2300 (revised) to all the Senior Computors of Central Water Commission on account of the judgement of the Central Administrative Tribunal;

(b) if so, what action has been taken so far to implement the judgement of the tribunal; and

(c) if no action has been taken, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since the Central Administrative Tribunal granted pay scale of Rs. 1400—2300 only to the Petitioners, the benefit of this judgement could not be extended to others. Meantime a number of Senior Computors have filed petitions in various Benches of Central Administrative Tribunal demanding revised scale on the analogy of the judgement of Delhi Bench of the Tribunal. The matter is *sub-judice*.

Import of Formed Coke Technology

221. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

*(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have initiated negotiations with Lurgi (West Germany) to import formed coke technology;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a similar technology has been developed by our scientist at CFRI; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is not aware of negotiations to import Formed Coke Technology.

(b) and (c) The technology developed at CFRI, Dhanbad is for making formed coke from coke-breeze or char produced from non-coking/weekly coking coal or coke fines or anthracite/semi-anthracite. Formed Coke produced on the basis of Central Fuel Research Institute technology was tested in low shaft blast furnace at Kelinga Iron Works Barbil (Orissa) and Indian Iron and Steel Company at Kulti. As the volatile content of formed coke was higher than the desired level, the process of making formed coke was modified. However, the technology has yet to be upgraded to an economically viable commercial venture. R & D Centre for Iron & Steel. SAIL has a proposal to put up a demonstration plant based on technology developed by CFRI of 100 T.P.D. capacity.

Development of Technical Know-How

222. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian scientists have indigenously developed (i) carbon fibre used in space aviation, defence, (ii) Gypsum Board, (iii) ITC Coal, (iv) Indian know-how for colour Television, (v) optical glass and (vi) formed coke process;

(b) whether Government have taken initiative to produce these on a mass scale; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The NPL has worked on the development of carbon fibres at a laboratory scale, including those required for space, aviation and defence; Laboratory know-how has been developed by CBRI, for Gypsum Board; For LTC, Coal, RPL, Hyderabad has developed know-how and a commercial plant has been set up; Know-how for Colour Television developed by CEERI was licenced for pilot production an engineering; Knok-how for several varieties of optical glass has been developed by CGCRI; Know-how for Formed Coke has been developed by CFRI.

(b) and (c) The Research and Development activities in the country have been directed towards the development of indigenous technology in these areas. The production of these items on a mass scale in some of these areas have not been possible due to several reasons such as: Limi-